REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Battat, et al (US 5,958,012). Battat teaches a network management system whereby a virtual reality approach is used to view a subset of the network.

The present invention relates to storage area networks (SANs). There are at least two important aspects in which a SAN differs from a traditional computer network. A SAN can provide connectivity between storage devices and the servers in a computer system. This connectivity typically does not extend to the clients in a networked system (Fig. 1, Detailed Description, page 8). Another advantage of a SAN is that data transfers can be facilitated directly between storage devices without server intervention (Detailed Description, pages 8-9), thus conserving server resources.

Thus while there are similarities between traditional computer networks and SANs, there are also important differences between them. In the present invention, a novel adjacency matrix is created and used in generating a desired perspective of a SAN topology.

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the claimed SAN have the capability of facilitating data transfer between storage devices without server intervention. Support for this claim element is included in the specification on pages 8 and 9. Additionally, Claim 1 has been amended to include the capability of generating a novel adjacency matrix (described in detail beginning page 18 in the specification). Claim 1 is now thought to be in condition of allowance.

Claims 2-8 are dependent on Claim 1 and are now thought to in condition of allowance in the original form.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the use of a novel adjacency matrix in the method of generating a topological perspective. Claim 9 is now thought to be in condition of allowance.

Claims 10-13 are dependent on Claim 9 and are now thought to be condition of allowance in the original form.

Claim 14 has been amended to include a logic means employing a novel adjacency matrix in generating a topological perspective. Claim 14 is now thought to be in condition of allowance.

Claim 15 is dependent on Claim 14 and is now thought to be in condition of allowance in the original form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 1-15 are now in condition of allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and pass the claims to allowance. Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of the original claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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